REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are presently active. Claims 4-8 have been presently added. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Immega et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,726,443). Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Immega et al. and further in view of Choshi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,327,861).

Claim 1 as clarified defines

> An information processing apparatus, comprising:
>
> emitting means for emitting a plurality of lights whose wavelengths are different from each other to a living body;
>
> dispersion means for dispersing the respective lights coming from the living body;
>
> separation means for ***spatially color-dispersing*** a plurality of image components corresponding to the respective lights from an image pickup signal output as a result of image pickup by an image pickup element for the respective lights dispersed by the dispersion means; and
>
> signal processing means for carrying out processing corresponding to the respective image components separated by the separation means. [Emphasis added.]

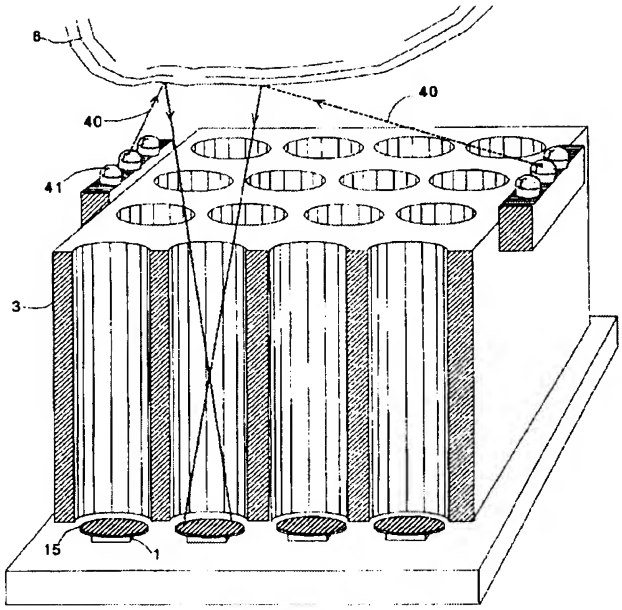
The emphasized features are supported in Applicant's specification at pages 8 and 9, where the specification indicates 1) that the filter array 22 has formed therein a plurality of filters each of which forms a unit to transmit a light of a wavelength corresponding to a different color (referred to as a color dispersion unit) forming a lattice pattern and 2) that filter array 22 can color disperse the finger surface projection lights and the blood vessel projection lights. The filter array 22 lattice pattern, which spatially color disperses, is shown

in Applicant's Figures 4A and 4B. This capability then permits (as noted on page 10 of Applicant's specification) camera unit 15 to selectively guide the blood vessel projection lights and the finger surface projection lights so that the hybrid image pickup unit 2 can pick up an image of the surface of the finger as well as an image of the a blood vessel existing inside the finger.

Applicant respectfully submits that when the features of Claim 1 are considered as a whole, Claim 1 patentably defines over the applied prior art, as detailed below.

MPEP § 2131 requires for anticipation that each and every feature of the claimed invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. As noted above, Claim 1 has been amended to define that Applicant's separation means ***color-disperses*** a plurality of image components corresponding to the respective lights from an image pickup signal output.

The Office Action cites column 15, lines 42-48 as describing a set of color filters. Yet, this description in Immega et al. references Figure 5 of Immega et al. (reproduced below). As seen there, color filters 15 are placed on top of sensors 1 and do not serve to spatially color disperse the light, but rather merely filter out selected colors of the light prior to reaching the sensors 1.



Thus, Claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are believed to patentably define over the applied prior art.

Applicant's new Claims 4-6 and 8 recite similar features as Applicant's Claims 1-3 and 7 but do not recite means plus function language. Nevertheless, Applicant's new Claims 4-6 are believed to patentably define over the applied art for similar reasons as explained above with regard to Claims 1-3.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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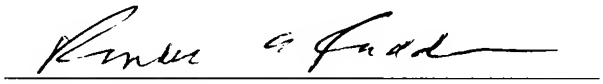

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